GUNS OF THE PURITANS.

Not the Blunderbusses Usually Represented by Artists.

One of the most remarkable facts to the investigator of our American antiquities is the almost total ignorance which prevails among even those who are otherwise well informed as to the weapons, more especially the firearms, with which our Puritan ancestors fought their wars with the Indians. One of the notions which seems firmly established is that the early settlers generally used the bell muzzle blunderbuss. Almost every artist who raws a Thanksgiving or Christmas licture of a Puritan going to meeting gives him a gun with a muzzle like the end of a trumpet. Now, the fact is that the bell mouth firearm was never a military arm among English speaking people at all, nor was such a weapon ever common either in this country or in England until about the middle of the last century, when it came into use for the defense of houses against burglars, for stagecoach guards and similar purposes. The blunderbusses which are common enough in the curiosity shops are almost without exception later than 1750, and many of them date only from the early part of this century.

A large, bell mouthed gun was in use somewhat earlier on board of naval and other armed ships, but this was a heavy piece mounted on a swivel and used very much as the howitzer was later. Then as to the locks. Even some

of our most distinguished writers seem to be completely at sea on this point. One New England writer, whom I will not name for fear of seeming disrespectful to a man deserving of honor, wrote some time ago in a magazine article that some soldier in King Philip's war might have invented the flintlock by finding that an Indian flint arrowhead would make fire if inserted into the cock of his matchlock. Now, the soldier of 1675 was given a matchlock, not because the military authorities were ignorant of guns which could make their own fire (wheel locks and snaphaunces were in common use); but because the matchlock was considered better for ordinary use. More than this, if he had thought of it, he would have man and his wife tortured a suspectknown that his matchlock would not make fire with a flint. The flintlock with which our war of independence was fought requires a ing belief in sorcery. Four years powerful blow to make the flint later a witch was drowned in Engstrike fire from the steel. This the matchlock did not have, nor did the pan cover open in such a way as to make this possible.

At the time of King Philip's war and for a long time afterward the ordinary firearm for infantry was the matchlook musket. These are plenty in European collections, but very rare in America. I have never seen one in any collection in this country. At the same time the snaphaunce, a primitive form of the flintlock, was quite extensively used | Fred? by hunters, and probably by the Indians, who would naturally object to the match, which if kept lighted would betray its presence, especially at night. Wheel locks were probably used to some extent by the earliest settlers, but it was always an exceptional arm and too costly to be generally used. By the time of King Philip's war it was rather old fashioned and not likely to have figured much. In Springfield is a fine bronze statue of one of the early settlers, who is represented with a wheel lock blunderbuss. This is, of course, possible—anything is possi-ble. But if any wheel lock blunder-buss can be found in any collection cf Europe or this country I would like to see it.—Boston Transcript.

DOES GOLD GROW?

Some Veteran Miners Who Pretend to Believe That It Does,

They were all weather beaten trail blazers who had led the march of civilization into the mountains, and their conversation wandered from the departed gluries of other days, to the latest discoveries A science. John Helenan had just finished reading from a mining journal about Professor Emmons' discovery of the method of transmuting silver into

"I think Emmons is a humbug," said old Judge Longly, a California argonaut. "The old alchemists, you know, tried that, but they might as well have tried to make an apple seed. Nature holds the germ, and all the scientists who imitate her cando is to quicken its growth."

"I've heard tell of gold growing," remarked Will Robbins.

"So have I," said the judge, "but you have never seen it grow, have you! I don't believe, all the yarns these experts spin anyhow."

"Boys," spoke up John Treanor, "perhaps I have got some queer old notions stowed away under this diggin hat of mine, but for 30 years, man and boy, I've been a prospect-or, and I've been doin some thinkin And I tell you now that I be-lieve gold does grow. Twenty years ago I struck the Locust and sank a shaft. It was silver ore, and after diggin for awhile I gave it up in disgust. Then I avandered over to the other side of the range and located the Banner, a copper mine now in the possession of the Adacouda compour I mostly derived for a chile. and eight years ago I went back to ing old love, the Louist

Hang we if I could believe my eyes, tops when I found the prettiest ledge of gold ore right where but is most plentiful on the coast of the bow. In Portugal and spain the alver ledge with it was us pretable abound. If the first most with the her nest where the bow rests,

diggin and have been diggin in that on the coast of Italy, where whole hole eve. since. It seemed to me limestone beaches are honeycombed that in the places where the water struck it it grew richer. I run in ed point among naturalists as to three tunnels at the bottom, but how this boring is effected. Some found the gold was not yet ripe, so think that the mollusk secretes I just closed up the tunnels and let

them rest for a few years." Jack Flice. "Hank lives up in Soap gulch and has a claim he calls the ing bullets in his lead mine to kill | work." Indians with. It is in a funny formation for that part of the country. It is in a reef of sand lying between the lime formation that borders on Whose measure of gentleness, tweethess and the Melrose valley and the stratified gneiss formation that runs from that point to the base of Red mountain.
Thirty years ago Hank discovered that there were globules of silver in

Some goldenses gifted was mainless and act.

Than Neily's far more eat mainless. the sand and located, but there was not enough mineral to pay, and he abandoned it. Ten years ago he went back to the old mine and began turning over the sand. He began to find chunks of gold instead of silver. He has a good thing of it now. He mines it like the Mexicans used to mine it years ago. He cuts stairs in the sand and takes the sand up Do you ask for the proofs? Does my statemen in a candle box and sorts it over. Now all he has got to do when he wants to make a stake is to go down to the sand pile and wiggle a crow-bar around for a few minutes when up comes a piece of shining gold. Several capitalists have attempted to get hold of the mine, and one of Heinze's agents made him a good offer for it, but Hank won't sell, for he is sure he has a fortune if the gold keeps on growing."-Butter In-

Witchcraft In the Nineteenth Century. Most people believe that witchcraft among civilized people ended when the "Salem witch mania" ran its course and died out in the year 1692. It did, as far as America is concerned, except among savages, but in other countries the belief in the superstition did not die until a much later date, even if it can be truly said to be dead now. In France an old beggar was tortured to death as late as 1807 on the charge of being one who "communed with evil spirits," and in Spain a witch was burned in 1808. In 1850 in France a ed witch to death, and nothing at all was done with them by the criminal courts on account of the lingering belief in sorcery. Four years land, and in 1860 one was burned in Mexico. In 1874, 1879, 1880 and again in 1889 witches were publicly burned in Russia, and even as late as 1890 regular judicial trials of witches were had in Prussia, Poland and Austria-Hungary. - St. Louis Republic.

An Altered Case. Father-Upon my word, I arr simply ashamed of you. How dare you

Son- was his own fault. He said my father was baldheaded. Father-Johnnie, I think under the circumstances I must forgive you. Go and tell Jane to give you a

When People Catch Cold.
The "cold spots," meaning there-

large piece of cake and an orange. -London Answers.

by the surface areas peculiarly susceptible to cold, are principally the nape of the neck and the lower part of the back of the head, the front of ditions do not interfere with my sitthe abdomen and the shins. The acute discomfort and the sense of impending disaster which result from the steady play of a current of cold air upon the neck from behind are well known. The necessity of keeping the abdomen warmly clad electric buzzer, follows her wheris also generally recognized, though perhaps not as generally carried into practice. Curiously enough, few people are conscious of the danger they run by exposing the usually inadequately protected shins to currents of cold air. This is the usual way in which colds are caught on omnibuses. When driving, one my visitor is I know something takes care to cover the legs with a about her which will give me a clew rug or waterproof, but on the more democratic conveyance rugs are not often available, and the reckless

passenger by and by awaken to the

fact that the iron has entered into his soul-in other words, that he has "caught cold." People who wear stockings, such as highland-ers, golfers and cyclists, invariably take the precaution of turning the thick woolen material down over the shins, the better to protect them against loss of heat, though incidentally the artificial embellishment of the calves may not be altogether foreign to the maneuver. This is an instance of how all things work together for good. It does not, of course, follow because certain areas are peculiarly susceptible to cold that a chill may not be conveyed to the nervous system from other points. Prolonged sitting on a stone, or even on the damp grass, is well known to be a fertile source of

The Razor Shell. One of the most curious of the is said that if iron or other base many remarkable forms of marine metal happen to be at the spot life is a species of mollask called where the bow touches the ground, the razor shell, which can excavate it will be instantly transformed to holes in solid rocks. This creature pure gold. In many parts of Gerhas no English name; its Latin many, Poland, Russia, Belgium and name is Pholas. It is found in wide. Holland it is said to be a golden key ly separated regions of the earth, that may be found at "the end of but is most plentiful on the coast of "he bow." In Portugal and Spain

disease, and wet, cold feet are also,

with reason, credited with paying

the way to an early grave.-London

Medical Press.

with their holes. It is still a disputsome acid which softens the limestone, but others think that the "Blame me if I don't think Hank holes are bored by the simple me-Stebbins does the same thing," said chanical process of grinding. The preponderance of opinion appears to lie with the latter view at present, Belcher. He discovered it 30 years yet it is said that no one has yet ago, when Wash Stapleton was mak- leen able to eatch the Pholas at

THE MOST ALN ... GIRL.

Seem to fee de worth more cariching.

You'll find maidens queenlier, daintier crowned with charges more described man's praises.

You'd find them more sprigatly, more tastefully gewied,

More fertile of elequent phrases.

But not in the realm of her sex. I declare, No matter what haven she blesses, Can a woman be found whese good sense will

compare
With the kind that my Nelly possesses.

Your functions of mental digestion? She's the one girl in town who'd the sense say "Yes"

In response to my popping the question.

—Buston Courier.

FORTUNE TELLING.

A Cinirvoyant Tells How Easy It Is to Gull the Public.

prominent ciairvoyant in a burst of confidence; eve to a reporter many points concerning clairvoyance as she practiced it that may prove interesting to the public.

"It is the easiest thing in the world to fool a woman," she said. Women do not reason. They are much more suspicious than men, but when once their confidence has. been gained you can make them believe the moon is made of green

"The whole problem is in gaining the visitor's confidence. If I can make her believe in me, she is gone. Usually it is not a very difficult job to do that. Probably one-half of the women who call to consult me are actuated by no other motive than idle curiosity. Such women never come back the second time; so I know that I can get only one fee from them anyway. I exact payment in advance, and after that it doesn't make very much difference to me what I tell them.

"But occasionally a woman comes in who has money and means business. If I please her, she will come again and again, making my pocketbook heavier each time. That is the woman I am after, of course, and my first work is to impress her with my honesty. I do not know her name, her residence or her his-tory. If I did, it would be clear sailing right from the start.

"I ask for the usual fee and go into a 'trance.' Very shortly I awak with a start. 'I am very sorry,' I remark, 'but the electrical and magnetic conditions today are very bad. The atmosphere seems to be surcharged with electricity, and it greatly interferes with my work. However, I will try again in a few minutes.' After a short interval of conversation I again go into a trance. This also proves ineffective, and I hand the caller's money back, saying that I am very sorry that she came at such an inopportune time and assuring her that the contings oftener than once or twice a year. Will she call again tomorrow?

ever she may go, When he returns, he has the woman's residence num. ber. From this it is an easy matter to identify her; and a few inquiries in the neighborhood-at the nearest grocery, perhaps—are sufficient to give me all the information I need. Very often as soon as I find out who to what she wants to know.

"When she calls again, I go into a trauce, and this time the 'conditions' are all right. I surprise her inexpressibly by describing the appearance of her own residence, giving the street and number and finally spell out her own name. Nine times out of ten this is all that is required. The caller is convinced that I have learned her name and residence by occult power, and therefore is ready to believe anything else I may tell her. It is easy when you know how."-Chicago Times-Herald.

Where a Rainbow Touches the Earth. In every country in the world rainbow folklore declares that some object of value may be found where the ends of the beautiful arch touch the earth. In Suabia the ends are said to rest on bowls of gold; in Hungary, that cups of silver will be found at the spot where they come in contact with the earth. In Switzerland it is said that a shoc cast over the rainbow will come to the ground on the other side filled to overflowing with gold. In Bosnia it

Viola Allen, the Actress, Says They Are a Fascination to Her. Miss Viola Allen has probably died as many times as any other woman on the stage—that is to say, of course, a dramatic death.

"There is something fascinating to me," she said, "in a death scene. If the actress has to fall to the ground in a death agony, she must be careful that she does not perform the feat as though she were a clasp knife folded up. Then, again, she must cultivate breathing, so that she may seem not to be breathing at all. Nothing is more ridiculous than the spectacle presented by a supposed corpse whose chest is heaving violently in consequence of the emotion attendant upon falling.

"I remember in Virginius! I was stabbed and fell zakward to the ground. The blow made me gasp. Gradually my limbs became rigid, and I fell at the moment the spark of life was supposed to have left my body. I used to remain motionless with my mouth and eyes open. My authority for such action and subsequent pose is the strongest. 'I was the witness of just such a tragedy in real life. The only pain I experienced in that scene was the enforced holding of my breath. The length of the actual death scene is about five minutes.

"When I played in 'Othello' with Tomaso Salvini, I was always nervous during the smothering scene, because the Italian tragedian used to get extremely excited. I would turn my face sideways and hold a small space open under the farther side of the pillow, so that I could breathe, but even that breatning hole would frequently get closed under Salvini's forceful energy.

"Then, when he had found that he had killed Desdemona without cause, in his remorse he would throw himself heavily upon the body. I used to wait for this piece of business as one would wait for a locomotive about to project itself upon the waistband.

"As Juliet, I have died many times. Romeo, you know, drinks the poison and subsequently throws the vial away as Juliet approaches him; then, seeing him die, stabs herself and falls over him. At one theater the property man, thinking poison should be represented by some black liquid, tilled the vial with ink. As Romeo made merely sion, you may be sure, the life of Juliet was ended with the least pes-

sible delay. dies a slow death by poison. In this case I took special care to find out the right poison that should be mentioned in the piece as the one that would cause a slow numbing of the senses.

"Death by starvation is by no means jolly. As Jess in 'Hoodman,' I have had to make believe I would give my life for a doughnut. In this play my death occurred while I was reclining on my side, well down the stage toward the footlights. This was quite often an awkward situation, because of the different curtains at the various theaters. Now and then, to avoid my being struck by the curtain, the hero would be obliged to draw my body back, and once, though a man put out his hand to keep the curtain from touching me, the heavy mass actually grazed my nose."-Boston

Commercial coys. "Do you enjoy shopping in these big department stores, Mrs. Per-

"Oh, immensely! There is such a delicious air of mystery about it." "Mystery?"

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